

Application Serial No.: 09/926,541
Reply to Office Action dated February 28, 2006

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 29, 31-37, and 40 are presently active in this case, Claim 36 having been amended by way of the present Amendment, and Claims 1-19, 22, 24, 27, 28, 30, 38, and 39 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 29, 31-35, and 40 have been allowed. Furthermore, Claims 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 36, and 37 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 36 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 27, and therefore Claim 36 and dependent Claims 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, and 37 are in condition for allowance. All of the rejected claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and thus the application is in condition for allowance.

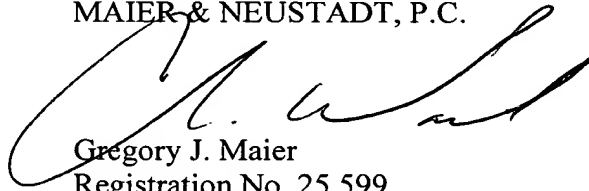
The Applicants respectfully request the entry of the amendments set forth herein as the amendments merely place the allowable subject matter into condition for allowance, and cancel the rejected claims.

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Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. J. Maier', is written over the printed name of Gregory J. Maier.

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